

GP-3711

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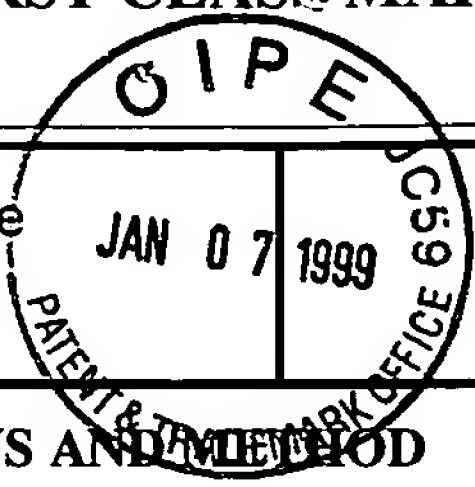
Applicant(s): **MARK OBLACK**

Docket No.

OBLM 101

Serial No.
09/167,090

Filing Date
10/5/98



Examiner

Group Art Unit
3711

Invention: **BALL THROWING APPARATUS AND METHOD**

#6/IDS
4/10/99
Reviewer

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Mark Oblack
Title: BALL THROWING APPARATUS AND METHOD
Serial No: 09/167,090
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97

In compliance with Applicant's and his attorney's duty of disclosure under 37 CFR 1.56, the Applicant does hereby submit the following Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO - 1449, and copies of the references listed thereon.

A patent search was manually conducted for the invention described in the above referenced patent application. In the course of the search, no patents were found for an apparatus that has the same structural features or that operates in the same manner such as the invention listed above. The following three (3) patents, however, were noted as being of interest and are hereby brought to the Examiner's attention as references AA - AC. The significance of each listed reference is as follows:

AA. Reference U.S. Patent No. 3,589,349 (Parker) discloses a ball throwing

1 apparatus that includes a spring handle and adjustable gripping leaves designed to receive a
2 ball. It includes an adjustment mechanism on the gripping leaves for gripping varying sizes
3 of balls.

4 AB. Reference U.S. Patent No. 3,428,036 (Parker) discloses a ball gripping and
5 throwing apparatus used to allow unskilled players to throw a ball in a controlled, accurate
6 manner.

7 AC. Reference U.S. Patent No. 1,535,029 (Murch) discloses a toy with an
8 elongated, straight handle which has a socket on its distal end made up of a plurality of
9 tongues intended to receive a ball. The tongues are connected to springs secured to the
10 handle which exert pressure inward against the tongues to hold the ball.

11 The Applicant and his attorney submit that the above cited references taken alone or
12 in combination neither anticipate nor render obvious the present invention. None of the
13 references disclose or claim a method of playing fetch with an animal, using a ball throwing
14 apparatus which includes an elongated shaft, with a rearward curve distal and ball throwing
15 means attached to the distal end of said shaft. The listed references relate only to the general
16 field of the disclosure and do not constitute an admission that the references are relevant or
17 material to the claims; they are cited only as constituting the closest art of which the applicant
18 and the attorney are aware.

19 Respectfully submitted,

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21 DEAN A. CRAINE

22 Reg. No. 33,591

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